

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1690

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING

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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any study to assess the impact of the Market Intervention Scheme on the farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to amend the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act to improve marketing of agricultural produce in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to avoid middlemen in the field of agricultural marketing;
- (f) whether the Government proposes to strengthen cooperatives to improve agricultural marketing; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b): An evaluation study was conducted through National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) to see (i) whether the objectives of the MIS were achieved? (ii) what should be the size of operation (iii) what are the possible ways to minimize losses and (iv) whether, it could be a plan scheme. The NCAER submitted its report in January, 1999 and made certain recommendations. Thereafter, a Working Group was constituted and based on their recommendations, the existing MIS scheme has been in operation since July, 2001.

(c) to (g): `Agriculture Marketing` is a State subject and States have enacted legislations for regulation of wholesale marketing in their respective steps. In order to bring reforms in agricultural marketing, the Ministry framed a model APMC Act in 2003 and circulated to States/UTs for adoption. The Model Act provides for direct marketing, contract farming, farmers consumers markets, setting up of markets in private and cooperative sector and e- trading etc., which aims at providing alternative competitive marketing channels to farmers and transparency in the system, while reducing intermediation. Similarly, cooperation is also a State subject. Therefore, the respective States have enacted their own Cooperative Societies Acts under which agriculture cooperative Marketing Societies function. These agricultural cooperative marketing societies provide marketing support to the farmers directly to avoid middle men and enable them to get remunerative prices for their produce on cooperative principles. Government of India has taken various measures for promoting and developing the Cooperative sector in the country. These include, inter-alia framing of National Policy on Cooperatives, implementation of recommendations of the Prof. Vaidyanathan Committee, amendment to Constitution in respect of cooperatives and enactment of Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002. Besides, National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) also provides financial assistance to the cooperatives for their promotion and development. National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) and National Council for Cooperative Training (NCCT) take up the human resource development in cooperatives through various cooperative education and training programmes.